

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW STORM PETREL FROM THE COAST OF
WESTERN MEXICO.

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The type-specimen herein described was collected by John Xantus nearly thirty-five years ago, but Mr. Chas. H. Townsend's considerable series of excellently prepared specimens—the only others taken, to my knowledge—entitle him to the credit of having established the specific characters of this species, to which I consequently take pleasure in giving his name.

Oceanodroma townsendi, sp. nov.

Thalassidroma melania "BONAP." BAIRD, Proc. Ac. Nat. Sci. Philad. 1859, 301, 306
(Cape St. Lucas).

Cymochorea melania COUES, Proc. Ac. Nat. Sci. Philad. 1864, 76; Key, 1872, 329;
Check List, 1873, No. 589.—B. B. & R., Water B. N. Am. II, 1884, 411.

Cymochorea melana RIDGW., Nom. N. Am. B. 1881, No. 724.—COUES, Check List,
2d ed. 1882, No. 824; Key, 2d ed. 1884, 781.

Oceanodroma melania A. O. U., Check List, 1886, No. 107.—RIDGW., Man. N. Am.
B. 1887, 70.

Oceanodroma townsendi RIDGW., MS.

SP. CHAR.—Tarsus decidedly longer than middle toe, with claw. Color, sooty brownish or dusky, darker above; under wing coverts entirely uniform in color with lower parts; exposed surface of greater wing coverts entirely light grayish brown. Total length (skins), about 8.00–8.50 inches (average, 8.20); wing, 6.60–7.00 (6.78); tail, 3.30–3.60 (3.43); depth of fork, 0.95–1.30 (1.15); exposed culmen, 0.57–0.62 (0.59); length of nasal tubes, 0.22–0.30 (0.27); tarsus, 1.20–1.28 (1.24); middle toe, with claw, 1.10–1.20 (1.13).

HAB.—Off coast of western Mexico, north to Cape St. Lucas and Guaymas.

Type, No. 13025, U. S. National Museum, ♂ ad., Cape St. Lucas, Lower California; J. Xantus.

OBSERVATIONS.—A series of nine finely-prepared skins of this species, collected by Mr. C. H. Townsend off Guaymas and Acapulco-Mexico, proves conclusively that this bird can not be the *Thalassidroma melania* of Bonaparte, neither the dimensions nor the coloration

agreeing at all closely with the latter, as the following comparison will show:

Measurements.

	Wing.	Tail.	Fork of tail.	Exposed culmen.	Tarsus.	Middle toe, with claw.
<i>O. townsendi</i>	7.00 (6.78)	3.30 (3.43)	1.22 (1.15)	0.62 (0.59)	1.22 (1.24)	1.20 (1.13)
<i>O. melania</i>	7.83	3.30	1.22	0.82	1.22	1.30

Coloration.

O. townsendi.—Above dark sooty brown, black only on tertiaries, secondaries, primaries, primary coverts, and tail; beneath sooty grayish brown.

O. melania.—Above raven black ("nigro coracina"); beneath sooty.

In the measurements of *O. townsendi* given above, the first under each heading represents the nearest approach, in a series of ten specimens, to the corresponding measurement of *O. melania*, the number immediately following (in parentheses) being the average of these ten specimens. It will be observed that while the length of the tail, the depth of its fork, and the length of the tarsus are the same in the two species, the wing, the exposed culmen, and the middle toe are very much longer in *O. melania* than in *O. townsendi*. The measurements of *O. melania* were taken from the type by Pucheran, for Prof. Baird, in millimeters, and have been carefully reduced to inches and hundredths.